

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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USIA FOR MIKE SCHNEIDER, ICS/SPECIAL ASSISTANT
DEPT. FOR CU/EA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC
SUBJ: REVISED MACEE (FULBRIGHT) PROGRAM PROPOSAL,

1976-7: UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA AMERICAN
STUDIES PROJECT

REF: (A) KL A-110, AUG 17, 1975 (NOTAL)
(B) KL 4776 (NOTAL)
(C) KL OMOF JAN 9, 1975 (NOTAL)
(D) USIA 6696

1. POST JUST LEARNED VICE-CHANCELLOR (PRESIDENT) OF
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM), HAMZAH SENDUT,
REJECTED TENTATIVE PROPOSAL MADE BY LOCAL FULBRIGHT
COMMISSION (MACEE) THAT FULBRIGHT FUNDS BE USED IN
SUPPORT BICENTENNIAL AMERICAN STUDIES PROJECT. ALL
USM GRANTS IN REVISED MACEE PROPOSAL (REF.A) ARE IN
SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. HAMZAH FEELS UNIVERSITY HAS
HIGHER PRIORITY NEEDS FOR FULBRIGHT FUNDS AND ONLY
AGREED TO AMERICAN STUDIES PROJECT (REF.C) AS SEPARATE,
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM. IN LETTER TO MACEE DIRECTOR, CHIEF
SUPPORTER OF PROJECT AT USM, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR SHAROM
AHMAT, INFORMED HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY HAMZAH TO TERMINATE
PROGRAM BECAUSE IT JEOPARDIZED HIGHER PRIORITY USE OF
FULBRIGHT FUNDS, AND THEREFORE SHAROM WAS CANCELLING PLANS
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TO VISIT U.S.

2. IN ENSUING TELCON WITH POST OFFICER, SHAROM AGREED PROGRAM COULD BE REACTIVATED ON CONDITION ONLY USIA FUNDS USED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS GENTLY POINTED OUT THIS WOULD NOT GUARANTEE FULBRIGHT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER USM USES, AND THAT OVERALL RESULT MIGHT BE SIMPLY THAT LESS FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR AMERICAN STUDIES PROJECT WITH NOTHING ELSE FROM MACEE FOR USM. NEVERTHELESS, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT SHAROM WOULD STILL TRAVEL TO STATES IN NOVEMBER AS PLANNED IN CONNECTION WITH PROJECT, ON UNDERSTANDING FURTHER FUNDING WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO EXTENT USIA, NOT FULBRIGHT, COULD PROVIDE.

3. FYI: VICE-CHANCELLOR HAMZAH KNOWN FOR INSISTENCE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL-BUILDING PROJECTS RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. THIS MEANS IN EFFECT SCIENTIFIC FIELDS GET ABSOLUTE PREFERENCE OVER HUMANITIES.

4. POST STRONGLY RECOMMENDS USIA CONTINUE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SUPPORT AND THAT DIRECT USE OF FULBRIGHT FUNDS NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED FOR PROJECT. EVEN THOUGH PROJECT DOES NOT HAVE HIGH PRIORITY IN VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EYES, AS STATED, TWO POINTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED: (1) SHAROM HAS MANAGED ARRANGE CONSIDERABLE COST-SHARING ON PART OF UNIVERSITY (REF.C) AND THIS STILL FORTHCOMING; (2) IT IS BECASUSE AMERICAN STUDIES HAS LOW PRIORITY IN MALAYSIA THAT SUCCESS OF THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY AT USM IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS. WE BELIEVE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT WILL BE IMPORTANT PILOT PROJECT IF HANDLED PROPERLY AND IF UNDERSTOOD AS SUPPLEMENTARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN HONOR AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

5. IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH SHAROM, POST LEARNED HE FEELS ESSENCE OF PROGRAM IS TO SEND MINIMUM OF TWO BUT PREFERABLY THREE MALAYSIANS TO U.S. FOR APPROPRIATE STUDIES. PRESENCE OF AMERICAN PROFESSOR TO INITIATE AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES ON USM CAMPUS DESIRABLE BUT NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL SINCE RESULT WOULD ONLY BE POSTPONING OF SUCH COURSES TILL MALAYSIANS RETURNED. THEREFORE EVEN LIMITED PROGRAM DESIRABLE. NOTE THAT IN ORIGNIAL PROPOSAL (REF.C) U.S. TS TO PAY TOTAL \$27,000 TUITION FOR THREE STUDENTS
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FOR THREE YEARS, WHILE US PAYS \$61,500 FOR TRAVEL AND MAINTENANCE.

6. ALTHOUGH FROM POST'S POINT OF VIEW THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD PROJECT FOR FULBRIGHT, WE FEEL IMPORTANT THING IS TO SALVAGE PROJECT BY BEST AVAILABLE MEANS.
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